

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of original claim 4 (the retaining element is a clip) and to further specify that the clip detachably connects the bearing to the support such that the bearing separates from the support in the event of an increased force on the wiper shaft due to impact with a pedestrian. This construction is not suggested by the cited references.

Muehlpforte discloses a windshield wiper device in which a bearing is held by a “safety ring” or speed nut 15 (Fig. 15).

The bearing of Muehlpforte does not, however, support the wiper shaft as specified in claim 1. Instead, the bearing of Muehlpforte supports the drive output shaft of a wiper motor. There is no suggestion to provide such a bearing arrangement for the wiper shafts.

Furthermore, Muehlpforte provides no suggestion whatsoever to provide a retaining clip detachably connecting the bearing to the support such that the bearing separates from the support in the event of an increased force on the wiper shaft due to impact with a pedestrian. Nothing in Muehlpforte suggests that the safety ring or speed nut 15 will release the bearing from the support in the event of an increased force, for example as a result of the impact of a pedestrian, on the wiper shaft or on the wiper arm fastened thereto.

Muehlpforte therefore does not teach or suggest the subject matter of claim 1.

Lisiecki discloses what the Examiner has called a “clip” 30, but the clip does not provide a releasable connection as specified in claim 1. The clip 30 of Lisiecki is bent, as shown in Fig. 3, so that it is not releasable.

Lisiecki therefore does not teach or suggest the subject matter of claim 1.

Predeau also does not teach or suggest the subject matter of claim 1.

The other cited references do not cure the deficiencies of the references discussed above. Therefore, claim 1 and dependent claims 2, 3, 5-7, 10, 12-14 and 17 are allowable.

New claim 17 depends from claim 2 and specifies that the receptacle (34) is C-shaped in cross section and has an interior, that the bearing (18) is inserted into the interior of the C-shaped receptacle, and that the bearing is fixed in the receptacle by the at least one retaining clip and by a second retaining clip, the clips gripping partially around the receptacle such that the clips are detachable in the event of an impact with a pedestrian. Support for this subject matter can be found in Par. 00030 of Applicants' specification. This construction is not suggested by the cited references.

In view of the foregoing, entry of the above amendment and allowance of claims 1-3, 5-7, 10, 12-14 and 17 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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